



Watersheds

A watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river or lake and is nature's way of dividing up the landscape. New England includes many eco-systems that, by virtue of their ecological value, recreational value, or proximity to large populations, hold a special significance to us. EPA New England is focusing particular attention and resources on these special places. Working closely with our federal, state and local partners, these community based initiatives are delivering tangible environmental improvements to these watershed areas.

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Fact Sheet/June 2002

Rumney Marsh



What Makes the Rumney Marsh Special?

- Designated by the state of MA as an *Area of Critical Environmental Concern*, Rumney Marsh is one of the most biologically significant salt marshes north of Boston.
- The marsh contains winter flounder, alewife, American eel, soft-shelled and razor clams, mussels, and a variety of native and migratory birds.
- Productive partnerships already exist and a plan for the restoration of Rumney Marsh has been prepared by a host of stakeholders.

Why Does it Need Special Attention?

- The marsh has extensive previously altered wetlands that need to be restored. The marsh has been compromised by standard-type tidegates (which prevent tidal flow), landfills, junkyards, and 200 acres of abandoned highway embankment fill. These conditions have led to a loss of important spawning and nursery grounds and typical salt marsh species, such as *Spartina* (cordgrass), which is being displaced by invasive *Phragmites* (common reed).

What is the New Long Term Goal?

- The goal is to restore 200 acres of salt marsh and intertidal areas by 2005.

Progress/Goals for the Future

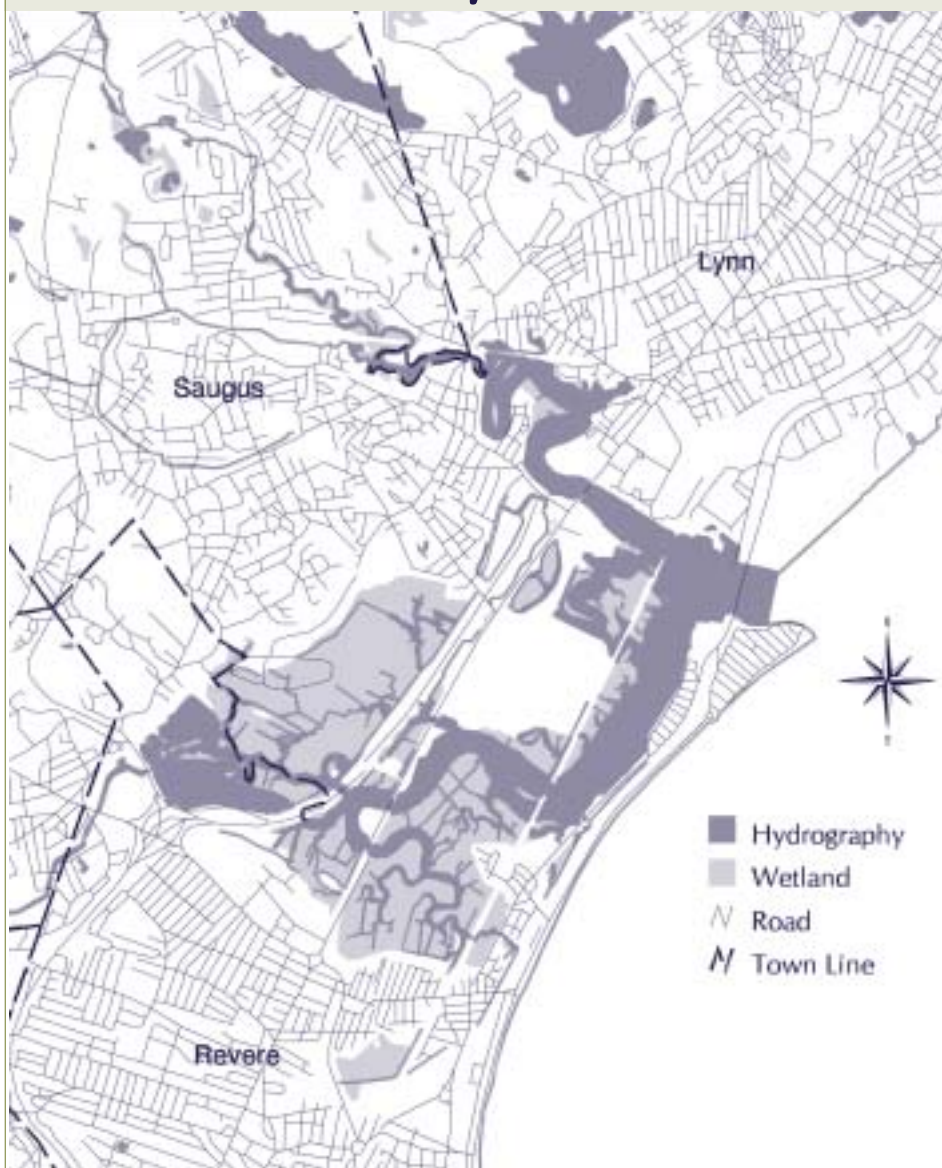
What Partnership Progress has Been Made?

- Ten innovative Self-Regulating Tidegates replaced broken standard type tidegates in Revere restoring tidal flow to 24 acres of the Central Country Ditch wetlands, 16 acres behind Revere Beach, and 5 acres at Town Line Brook.
- Twenty-five acres of the abandoned I-95 embankment were removed to restore clam flat and salt marsh habitat.
- A total of 50+ acres of salt marsh have better tidal flow and fresh water drainage because of ditch maintenance and open marsh water management projects in Saugus and Revere completed so far.
- 125 acres of marsh have been improved, already surpassing the original goal of "100 by 2005".

What Major Actions are Planned for 2002?

- Construction of the 11th Self-Regulating Tidegate in Revere for the 30+ acre Oak Island Salt Marsh Restoration project.
- Permitting for the construction of the first Self-Regulating Tidegate in Saugus at the 30+ acre Ballard Street Salt Marsh Restoration.

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Who are the Partners?

EPA New England • US Fish and Wildlife Service
• National Marine Fisheries Service • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Corps of Engineers, New England District • Coastal America Partnership • Federal Emergency Management Agency • ROCA • Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection • Massachusetts Wetland Restoration Program • Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management • Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management • Massachusetts Highway Department • Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries • Massachusetts Fisheries Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement • Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency • Metropolitan District Commission • Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority • Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District • Massachusetts Bays Program • Saugus River Watershed Council • Friends of Rumney Marsh • Massachusetts Audubon Society • Town of Lynn • City of Revere • City of Saugus • GE - Lynn • RESCO - Saugus

Self-Regulating Tidegate



For more information on these tidegates, visit www.watermanusa.com



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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.

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